

IN BRIEF

Health and aging workshops in June

Aging well is the topic of discussion at Monday workshops in June at Silverton Senior Center.

The author of an award-winning book on health in aging will facilitate discussions from noon to 1:30 p.m., on June 10, 17 and 24. David Haber, Ph.D., author of "Health Promotion and Aging," will discuss health strategies, concerns and questions with audiences at each of the four sessions.

Registration is required. The senior center is at 115 Westfield St., and can be reached by phone at 503-873-3093.

Bocce tourney teams fundraise for charities

Is there a Willamette Valley area non-profit organization that could use funds? The Big LeBocce charity tournament is a chance for teams to play and earn money for the charities of their choice.

For \$100, a team of four can compete in the bocce ball tournament at Vanderbeck Valley Farms in Mt. Angel and earn money for the local non-profit they've named as beneficiary.

Sponsored by AmeriTitle, the tourney is set for Wednesday, June 19. Teams must register by June 5. Family, friends, kids, and community members are welcome. No previous experience or skill is required. Food and drinks will be onsite for purchase. Questions? Contact

Rosi Green 503-873-7200 or rosi.green@amerititle.com.

Garden Tour blooms a fifth time

During Silverton's fifth annual Home Garden Tour on Saturday, June 8, seven inspired private gardens in "Oregon's Garden City" will be open for viewing.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., attendees can walk through these beautiful gardens and watch their own ideas grow. Tickets are \$20 when purchased ahead of time and \$25 day-of. Kids 10-and-under are free. Buy online at www.silvertontogogether.org or in person at Silverton Together, Silverton Chamber of Commerce or Silverton Farmers Market. The event is sponsored by Silverton Garden Club and Silverton Together.

First Friday music coming to Mt. Angel and Silverton

This month, Silverton's First Friday

celebration – which typically means special offers, hours and music downtown – includes a pair of concerts, one in Mt. Angel and one in Silverton.

On June 1, Mt. Angel Towers Retirement Community is hosting dinner and a concert. Dinner starts at 4 p.m., and it will be followed by prizes, drinks and a performance by Charlie & His Angels. Weather permitting the concert will be outside.

In Silverton, the First Friday concert series will feature John Collison, pianist and director of music at Silverton United Methodist Church, which is also the venue. Collison will perform with colleagues from his church's ensembles.

The church is located at 203 W. Main St. For more information, call 503-873-6517.

Lynn

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Recruits learn about the complexities of traffic stops early in the 16-week police academy. They're covered during the use of force section.

The Range 3000 system offers computer-simulated scenarios in two training rooms. Recruits go through the paces of a traffic stop facing a giant video screen, armed with a laser-beam pistol, taser and pepper spray. An instructor sitting at a monitor in the back of the room can change the scenario as it unfolds.

Scott Willadsen, use of force coordinator at DPSST and a former Union County Sheriff's Deputy, puts Stradley through a couple of scenarios to demonstrate the system.

One is a "rolling domestic," where a man and woman have been reported arguing in a vehicle. Stradley pulls them over and both occupants end up exiting the vehicle. The male driver is belligerent and only complies after Stradley draws his taser.

In the second scenario, Stradley pulls over a vehicle for speeding in a neighborhood.

The driver is hostile as he hands over his license and registration. Stradley learns he's armed and dangerous, asks for a cover unit, and does not re-approach the vehicle. All the while he keeps an eye on the driver, who can be seen leaning over in the front seat and seconds later firing a gun out the win-

dow. Stradley returns fire.

Willadsen debriefs Stradley about his decisions.

"Even if somebody shoots you doesn't necessarily mean you have the ability to shoot back," said Stradley, noting if the backdrop of the vehicle in the second scenario had been a schoolyard instead of foliage he would have had to find a different angle.

Across the hall in another training room, recruits get "live" experience.

Their pistols are loaded with plastic-tipped rounds for these confrontational simulations. Getting shot hurts by design so recruits don't get comfortable going into a rain of gunfire.

In one traffic stop scenario, the "suspect" exits the vehicle and fires shots at the "officer," who gets hit in the leg and applies a tourniquet. It was eerily like what happened last week with the Salem Police officer, although shots were fired from inside the vehicle.

Instruction can be a life saver

Instructors debrief recruits after each scenario, which they believe is just as valuable as the exercise itself. They point out what recruits did right and wrong and discuss whether the use of force was appropriate.

It's nearly impossible to train for everything that could happen in a traffic stop, and mistakes will inevitably be made at the academy and in the real world. The goal is to not make a mistake that will cost an officer his or her life.

"There's no way to tell them 'When this happens, do this,'" Stradley said.

"That doesn't exist in our world. We prepare them the best we are able to make quick, decisive decisions for a better, safer and proper conclusion."

Willadsen said quick, decisive decision-making doesn't necessarily mean quick, decisive action. A tactical retreat may be the right decision.

The recruits take turns playing the role of the bad guys, too.

"There's a huge amount of value in them being on both sides of the equation," Willadsen said. "They get to see overreaction on both sides."

Training focuses on communication and awareness. Recruits learn how to deal with adrenaline and stress because they will have to make complex decisions in fractions of a second.

Traffic stops start with respect

The first 28 years of his career, Stradley worked on the streets in Portland. He made thousands of traffic stops, each time gathering information about the surroundings and trying to anticipate what the driver might do.

The tactics haven't changed since he first put on a uniform in 1983.

"How you try to approach a car is to treat everyone with kindness, compassion, empathy and respect, and at the same time be prepared for a deadly force encounter," Stradley said. "Both have to be in play, even though most officers throughout their career will never face that; 99.9 percent of the time the person in the car is just a nice, decent person."

Instructors at the academy talk to recruits about being vigilant but not

paranoid. The hope is their training and approach will minimize risk and prevent complacency.

"It's very difficult preparing for something that's probably not going to happen," Stradley said.

Once a recruit graduates from the academy, his or her training continues with their respective hiring agency.

Salem Police assigns each of its recruits to a Field Training Officer, an experienced member of the department who provides ongoing instruction, supervision and guidance for about six months. Four phases of field training allow progressively more independence until the recruit is allowed to operate solo.

The department also conducts confrontation simulation training four times a year for its officers and not just on traffic stops but domestic calls and EDPs, or emotionally disturbed persons.

In light of what happened, Salem Police could gear the next quarterly training toward best practices for traffic stops.

"Generally, when a large event like that occurs, our trainers will go back and create scenarios similar to that so we can work on those," Upkes said.

"Forward This" taps into the heart of the Mid-Valley — its people, history, and issues. Contact Capi Lynn at clynn@StatesmanJournal.com or 503-399-6710, or follow her the rest of the week on Twitter @CapiLynn and Facebook @CapiLynnSJ.



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